

Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project

DDMHS, Weeks Building, 103 South Main Street, Waterbury, VT 05671-1601 (802-241-2638)

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vermont Mental Health Performance Indicator Project
Advisory Group and Interested Parties

FROM: John Pandiani and Sheila Pomeroy

DATE: December 20, 2002

RE: Forensic Patients in State Hospitals in 38 States

The attached graph and table present the results of a study of forensic utilization of state hospitals in 38 states for 1987, 1997, and 2002. The study was conducted by the Forensic Division of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD). Findings are based on responses from the states to a survey regarding a point-in-time census of their state hospitals. Both children and adults admitted to state hospitals are included. Legal definitions of "forensic" admissions may vary from state to state. Psychiatric facilities operated by state correctional authorities are not included in this study. For more information, contact Deborah Scott, Assistant Commissioner for Forensic Services for the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health (617-626-8097).

As you will see, forensic utilization rates (forensic patients as a percent of all patients) in 2002 ranged from lows of 0% in Mississippi and 4% in New Hampshire to highs of 69% in Missouri and 84% in California. Vermont ranked in the top third with 41% forensic patients.

Forensic utilization of state hospitals (as a percent of total utilization) increased during the twenty-five year period between 1987 and 2002 in 23 of the 27 states that provided data for both of these years. Arkansas, Kansas and Wisconsin are notable exceptions. In sixteen states, forensic utilization more than doubled between 1987 and 2002. In 8 states, forensic utilization increased by three times or more during this period. Forensic utilization of the Vermont State Hospital increased by a factor of 2.2, from 19% in 1987 to 41% in 2002.

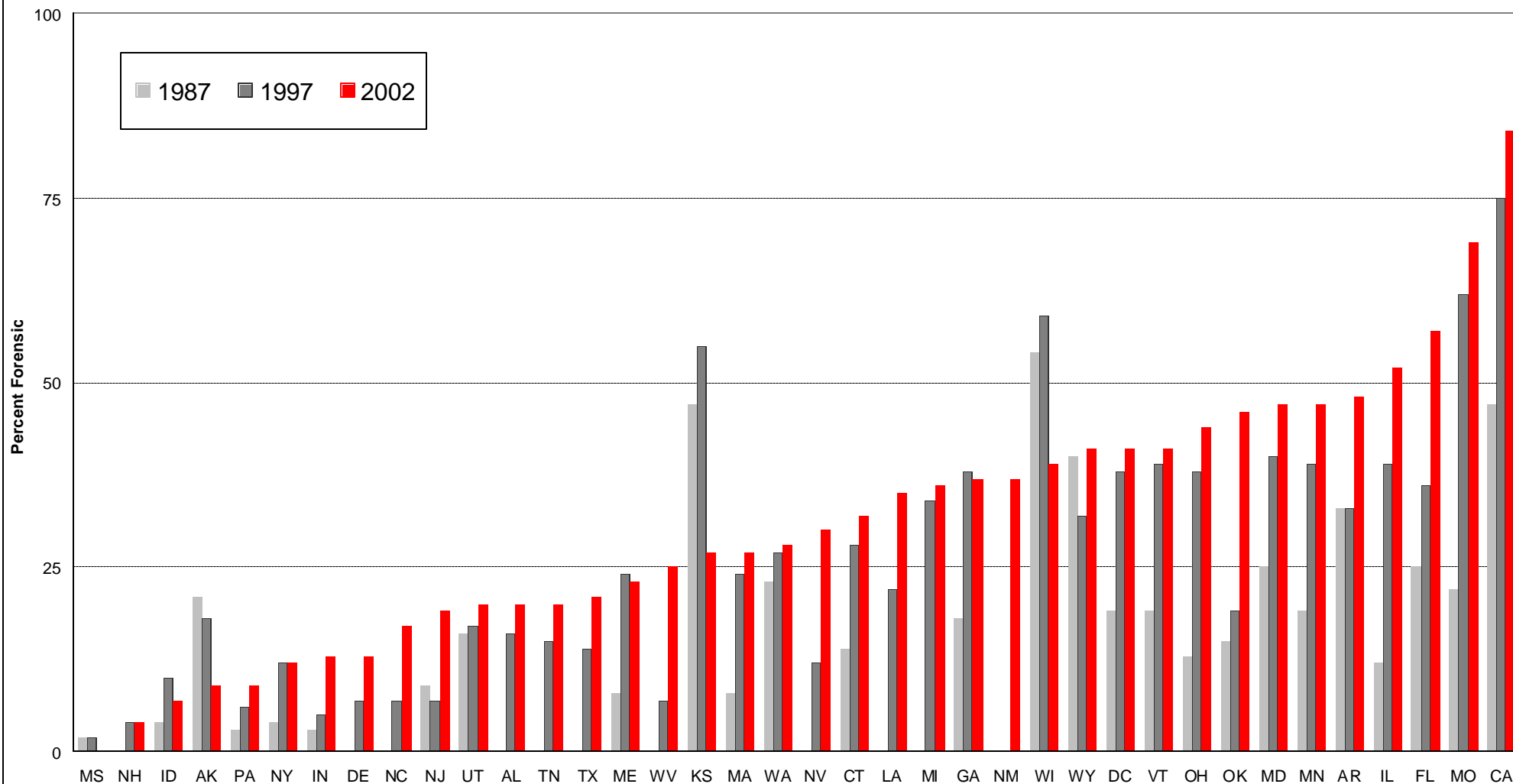
These findings need to be interpreted in light of the substantial reduction in the total state hospital population in Vermont and many other states during the period of this study. (See <http://www.state.vt.us/dmh/Data/PIPs/1999/pip101.pdf>). Nevertheless, the findings suggest a substantial change in the focus and the function of State Hospitals in the United States during this period.

We look forward to your comments and your suggestions for further analysis of data regarding the role of state hospitals in the United States. As always, we look forward to your comments and questions to pip@ddmhs.state.vt.us, or call 802-241-2638.

Forensic Inpatient Utilization

Forensic Patients as Percent of Total State Hospital Inpatients, 1987 - 2002

Survey of 38 States



The study was conducted by the Forensic Division of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD). Findings are based on responses from the states to a survey regarding a point-in-time census of their state hospitals. Both children and adults admitted to state hospitals are included. Legal definitions of "forensic" admissions may vary from state to state. Psychiatric facilities operated by state correctional authorities are not included in this study.

Forensic Inpatient Utilization
Forensic Patients as Percent of Total State Hospital Inpatients, 1987-2002
Survey of 38 States

STATE	1987	1997	2002	% Change in Rate ('87-'02)
AK	21%	18%	9%	- 57%
AL	--	16%	20%	--
AR	33%	33%	48%	+ 45%
CA	47%	75%	84%	+ 79%
CT	14%	28%	32%	+ 129%
DC	19%	38%	41%	+ 116%
DE	--	7%	13%	--
FL	25%	36%	57%	+ 128%
GA	18%	38%	37%	+ 106%
ID	4%	10%	7%	+ 75%
IL	12%	39%	52%	+ 333%
IN	3%	5%	13%	+ 333%
KS	47%	55%	27%	- 43%
LA	--	22%	35%	--
MA	8%	24%	27%	+ 238%
MD	25%	40%	47%	+ 88%
ME	8%	24%	23%	+ 188%
MI	--	34%	36%	--
MN	19%	39%	47%	+ 147%
MO	22%	62%	69%	+ 214%
MS	2%	2%	0%	- 100%
NC	--	7%	17%	--
NH	--	4%	4%	--
NJ	9%	7%	19%	+ 111%
NM	--	--	37%	--
NV	--	12%	30%	--
NY	4%	12%	12%	+ 200%
OH	13%	38%	44%	+ 238%
OK	15%	19%	46%	+ 207%
PA	3%	6%	9%	+ 200%
TN	--	15%	20%	--
TX	0%	14%	21%	--
UT	16%	17%	20%	+ 25%
VT	19%	39%	41%	+ 116%
WA	23%	27%	28%	+ 22%
WI	54%	59%	39%	- 28%
WV	--	7%	25%	--
WY	40%	32%	41%	+ 3%

The study was conducted by the Forensic Division of the National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors (NASMHPD). Findings are based on responses from the states to a survey regarding a point-in-time census of their state hospitals. Both children and adults admitted to state hospitals are included. Legal definitions of "forensic" admissions may vary from state to state. Psychiatric facilities operated by state correctional authorities are not included in this study.